



City of Freeport

Workshop

5:30 PM/Council Chambers/Freeport City Hall

January 25, 2017 Minutes

I. Meeting Opened

The January 25, 2018 Council Workshop was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Russ Barley. The meeting was held in City Council Chambers of Freeport City Hall.

Council Members present: Mayor Russ Barley, Councilman Eddie Farris, Councilwoman Amanda Green, and Councilman William "Boots" McCormick

Council Members Absent: Councilwoman Elizabeth Brannon, Councilwoman Kasey Cuchens

Staff present: City Clerk Rebecca Podraza, City Attorney Clay Adkinson, City Planner Latilda Hughes-Neel, Planning Technician Elizabeth McCombs, City Engineer Cliff Knauer & City Engineer William Menadier

II. Meeting Called to Order

III. Promote Sewer Hookup Around the Bay Area

Mayor Barley turned the meeting over to Councilman Farris. Councilman Farris explained that he requested the Workshop to discuss ideas to promote Sewer Hook-Up to customers currently on septic tanks around the Bay. Councilman Farris presented the following ideas

- 1) Notify customers that financing is available
- 2) Advertise a promotional opportunity to offer hook-up at the inside City rates for 90 days.

This initiative would preserve our water ways and generate revenue for the City.

Councilman McCormick added that the City needs to come up with a plausible plan and agrees with Councilman Farris's ideas. He then advised the Council that this subject was brought up by the City Engineers in the past and asked City Engineer Cliff Knauer to come to the podium.

City Engineer Knauer outlined the plans that were presented to Council approximately four years ago entitled "Clean Water Initiative". The project was a unique grant funding initiative, to apply for grant money through the State Revolving Fund Program, for sewer lines and hook-ups around the bay area. There is currently a total of 643 existing septic tanks either on the bay or in the adjacent Bay area.

The City of Freeport may take action on any matter during this meeting, including items that are not set forth within this agenda.

In accordance with Section 286.26, Florida Statutes, persons with disabilities needing special accommodations to participate in this meeting should contact the City Clerk's office at 850-835-2822 by 5:00 p.m. on the day prior to the meeting.

No verbatim record by a certified court reporter is made of these proceedings. Accordingly, any person who may seek to appeal any decision involving the matters noticed herein will be responsible for making a verbatim record of the testimony and evidence at these proceedings upon which any appeal is to be based (see Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes).



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The program requires that there be a health or safety issue identified in the area. Water quality testing has already been done in the McDaniel's Fish Camp, Bay Loop Road, Lagrange Road, Sparkle Berry and Jennings Road areas. This information has been shared with the Walton County Health Department who have indicated they will help the City in any way they can. The elevated levels of coliforms should be sufficient to warrant approval of the funds.

Engineering recommends breaking these down into smaller projects to submit to the SRF Program so that the matching funds would not be such a large burden on the City. He suggested McDaniel's Fish Camp would be a good project to start with.

Councilman Farris asked if water quality testing had been done around Bay Loop. Engineer Knauer said that they had not, but he would be happy to take samples. The Health Department has offered free testing to help with the process.

The project will be added to the February 13, 2018 Council Meeting Agenda, to approve Engineering to move forward on breaking the area down into smaller projects to be submitted to SRF.

Comments were made by members of the community who were in attendance. The sewer hook-up rates for inside versus outside the City were requested by Jeffrey Powell. Clerk Podraza provided the information and Council discussion ensued.

IV. Adjournment

Mayor Barley called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:01 p.m.

FREEPORT CITY COUNCIL

Mayor

ATTEST

City Clerk

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